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## WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

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Charter schools are nonsec-  
tarian public schools of choice  
that operate with freedom  
from many of the regulations  
that apply to traditional public  
schools. The "charter" estab-  
lishing each such school is a  
performance contract detailing  
the school's mission, program,  
goals, students served, meth-  
ods of assessment, and ways  
to measure success. The  
length of time for which char-

ters are granted varies, but most  
are granted for 3-5 years. At the  
end of the term, the entity grant-  
ing the charter may renew the  
school's contract. Charter  
schools are accountable to their  
sponsor-- usually a state or local  
school board-- to produce posi-  
tive academic results and adhere  
to the charter contract. The  
basic concept of charter schools  
is that they exercise increased  
autonomy in return for this ac-

countability. They are ac-  
countable for both academic  
results and fiscal practices.  
For more information on char-  
ter schools in general, consult  
the web site for Orange Coun-  
ty Public Schools  
(<http://www.ocps.k12.fl.us/>).  
Hope Charter School is funded  
through Orange County and  
school fundraising activities.  
It is not affiliated with any re-  
ligious organization.

## WHAT ARE HOPE'S ACADEMICS?

Hope Charter School is a K-8  
school in which brain-based  
techniques are used, following  
Kagan, Allen and Conyers train-  
ing. ESE students represent 15-  
20% of the population, giving  
opportunity for Asperger and  
high-functioning autistic stu-  
dents to participate in the regu-  
lar classroom with their typical-  
student peers. Hope Charter  
School adheres to class size  
amendment numbers at the  
classroom level with a teacher  
and an aide in all K-6 class-

rooms.  
In addition to standard aca-  
demics which utilize the SRA  
Reading Program from  
McGraw Hill and Saxon  
Math, each class participates  
in P.E., Brain Power, music  
and art. Brain Power is a pro-  
gram that promotes and utiliz-  
es the interaction of the entire  
brain with physical activity.  
Benchmark reports are issued  
quarterly along with a teach-  
er's narrative report for each  
student.

Meetings with teachers can be  
scheduled by sending in a note  
to the teacher, calling the of-  
fice to request a return call  
from the teacher, or emailing  
the teacher.

Teachers make every effort to  
keep parents informed and to  
work with students to help  
each individual reach his or  
her potential. Parents may be  
asked to sign memos to indi-  
cate their child has completed  
the assigned homework.

**Title VI:** No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.  
**504:** No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of her/his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.  
**Title IX:** Prohibits all sex discrimination in federally funded education programs or activities, which includes all public schools, colleges and universities and most private schools, as well. The ban on sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual assault. Title IX applies to students, school employees, or anyone present on campus regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, or disability status.

## WHAT IS HOPE'S ENROLLMENT PROCESS?

The **Enrollment Process** is governed by state requirements. A Kindergarten student must turn 5 before September 1 of the year he/she is entering school. Registrations for the up-coming school year can be accepted only during or after the current Open Enrollment. Open Enrollment is held each year from March 1 through March 7. It is not a first-come/first-served enrollment. At the end of Open Enrollment, if more registration forms are received than there are openings in a grade level, all the registrations will be placed in a lottery. Every registration will be chosen and given a lottery number. After the open positions are filled, the remaining registrations will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they were chosen through the lottery. When an opening occurs, the school will contact the first person on the waiting list. If that person does not accept the position, the school will continue to contact those on the waiting list until the position is filled. After Open Enrollment, registration forms will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list as they are received. This enrollment process must be repeated each year. If the school is unable to accept someone on the waiting list for one year, that person must re-apply for the next year. Waiting lists do not carry over from one year to another.

When an applicant is offered a position, parents may meet with the Principal to learn about the school's policies and be able to ask whatever questions they might have. Also, we want parents to understand the commitment which they are being asked to make in accepting the position. Unfortunately, we do not have the personnel available to offer individual tours to anyone unless we have an opening to offer them. **A registration form for each student must be completed and submitted to Hope Charter School to begin the enrollment process.**

## DO YOU HAVE... ?

**Outside School Activities** and **Field Trips** are scheduled to enhance the current area of study. While some of these are free of charge, others do require a fee. For example: a field trip to the public library or the local fire station is free while a field trip to the Science Center requires a fee.

Students at Hope Charter School are required to wear **Uniforms**. These uniforms consist of embroidered T-shirts and polos with slacks, shorts, skirts or skorts. Our supplier also offers embroidered sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets, in approved colors, for cooler weather. During the year, Hope may authorize a commemorative T-shirt that may be worn in place of the pull-over shirt. A student/parent manual is available on our web site.

Hope Charter School follows a **Healthy Eating Plan**. Lunches and snacks cannot contain cookies, candy, cake, soft drinks, etc. The basic guideline are on our web site. In addition to a lunch and a snack, each student must bring a water bottle every day. The school does have a lunch program through a caterer.

Regular **School Hours** are listed in our student/parent manual. There is no early dismissal on Wednesdays. Students are dropped off and picked up through a Car Circle system. Parents must sign-in late arriving students and sign-out early departing students. This is done through the office.

An **Extended Day Program** is offered for the convenience of those parents who are unable to drop-off or pick-up at school times. Before-care begins at 7:00 a.m. and after-care extends until 6:00 p.m. The cost for extended day is charged on a weekly basis, regardless of the number of days used, and is payable in advance. Payment is due each Monday for that current week. Cost for the current school year is available at Meet-The-Teacher in August. If a student is picked up after 6:00 p.m., the cost is \$1.00 per minute per student payable in cash to the staff at the time of pick up. Students who arrive before 8:00 a.m. must be signed-in to before-care. Students who are not picked up by the end of dismissal will be placed in after-care and payment will be due.

As needed, **Alerts** will be sent to parents via email, telephone or text to notify parents of important issues and upcoming events at the school.

## WHAT IS A "SCHOOL OF CHOICE" ?

Parent commitment is not only necessary but is a requirement as part of our charter. In addition to agreeing to follow the policies of Hope Charter School, parents are required to attend monthly parent meetings (held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.), and volunteer 20 hours per year or donate supplies to the school to receive 1 hour volunteer credit for every \$10.00 value. Parent support of school policies is considered essential to student success. Because this school is much more a partnership, it is important that your choice includes the desire to be committed to Hope, as the staff is committed to you and your child. You are the only one who can decide what is best for your child. OCPS is required to provide free appropriate public education for every student, and your child is assigned to a school that is available to him/her. Hope Charter School is a School of Choice.